

crucial to our local economy, and this is an important sign of progress.

South Florida is one of the best places to live and work and raise a family, and I am glad people are getting back into the market. Many folks took advantage of the first-time home buyer tax credit, and others are moving because their families are growing or they are ready to downsize.

I am constantly working side by side with our local homebuilders and realtors, great members of our community, like Nancy Hogan, Adam Saunders, who is executive director of the Fort Lauderdale realtors, and Deidre Newton from Palm Beach County.

Putting their ideas into action is one of the best ways to turn the corner in our local real estate market. And it is more than just buying a new house. Families with a new home need new furniture, flowers for their garden, and maybe a plumber or a painter or electrician to come by. These are all services and products that come from our local businesses and make a huge impact on our economy.

So while there is more work to be done, and we know that, I was glad to read some good economic news in this morning's newspaper.

□ 1330

IF YOU CAN'T BUDGET, YOU CAN'T GOVERN

(Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, back home in New Jersey, people don't want to hear that the House of Representatives is preparing to go home for Memorial Day recess without even holding a vote on President Obama's budget proposal given to the Congress back in February.

They're trying to live within their own shrunken family budgets, with less income and less ability to save, and with well over 10 percent of them unemployed.

They know with the President's budget proposal, whatever the magnitude of its spending that ensures more debt and borrowing, that we need to make the same hard choices they are, and the Federal budgets is comprised of their money.

It appears that this House will not vote because the majority, it seems, does not want to vote for sustained trillion-dollar deficits that will compound the national debt as far as the eye can see.

I'd also add that the President's much discussed "spending freeze" comes after a 24 percent increase in spending among the affected agencies and programs.

As others have said, If you can't budget, you can't govern.

CLOSING CORPORATE TAX LOOPHOLES

(Mr. GARAMENDI asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, for my colleagues' information, before this week is over, we will be voting on jobs for America and cutting corporate tax loopholes that are sending jobs offshore.

In the final days of the Bush administration, they asked for \$700 billion to bail out the financial industry; 81 percent of that money went to the large Wall Street banks who managed, in the next year, to reduce their loans to small businesses, while just a small percentage of it went to local community banks who actually increased their loans to small businesses.

There's something to be learned here. The act that we'll be voting on, H.R. 4213, closes those tax loopholes, taxes the Wall Street barons that have ripped off our money, and brings jobs to America through several different programs; 250,000 summer jobs, R&D tax credits, other programs to encourage small businesses.

We should, with the support of the Republicans, pass H.R. 4213, the American jobs and tax loophole closing programs.

LEAD, FOLLOW, OR GET OUT OF THE WAY

(Mr. COLE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, in 2006 our distinguished majority leader said enacting a budget was "the most basic responsibility of governing."

Representative SPRATT, from South Carolina, our distinguished Budget chairman, said in the same year, If you can't budget, you can't govern.

Yet this Democratic majority's produced no budget. I don't believe that's the fault of Mr. HOYER or Mr. SPRATT. They're both good men, and they're both working hard to create a budget. But that responsibility does rest with each and every member of the Democratic Caucus.

My friends, you have 257 Members. Can't 218 of you agree on a budget? And if not, why are you here?

I would suggest to my Democratic colleagues, they should lead, follow or, in November, get out of the way.

INDUSTRIAL OUTPUT IS EXAMPLE OF ECONOMIC GROWTH

(Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, America has been through tough times before, but we've always pulled together as a Nation to overcome our challenges.

Just over 1 year ago, Democrats came together and faced the challenges that we were handed by the mismanagement of the Bush Republicans. Faced with massive job losses exceed-

ing 700,000 a month just over 1 year ago, we passed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act; and, since that time, we've reversed the job losses and spurred economic growth.

One only needs to look at America's manufacturing sector to see the progress that we're making. American industrial production has increased a cumulative 6.8 percent during the past 10 months, the largest 10-month gain since 1997.

Total industrial production continued to increase last month. Together with last month's jobs report, this suggests a strong start for the second quarter. The increase, which was slightly above market expectations, was led by a strong 1 percent growth in manufacturing output.

As Americans, we can do it. We can turn our economy around. We have a ways to go, but we can get America back on track and, together, we are doing just that.

And that's just the way it is.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE DESERVE BETTER

(Mr. THORNBERRY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, for the first time since the modern Budget Act was passed in 1974, the House will not pass a budget this year, for the first time in 35 years.

This dereliction of duty is important for at least two reasons: One, a budget is the first and necessary step to control spending. Every household in the country knows that you have to get a budget together to know your income and expenses, to separate priorities, and to decide how you're going to spend precious resources. The same is true in Washington. And yet this year the American people and Congress and the administration will not have the opportunity to use that tool.

The second reason is that it just confirms the worst that people feel about Washington. People around the country already believe that too many Members of Congress care more about their own re-election than they do about solving the problems of the country. This just confirms that Members of the majority, at least, don't want to take tough votes, that they're more worried about their own political protection than they are about trying to do what's right and solve problems.

Mr. Speaker, it is irresponsible to not even try to pass a budget this year. The American people deserve better.

THE ECONOMY

(Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, in 2007 President Bush allowed for 14,000 waivers to our Buy America laws. In 2008, on his way out the door, that number became 65,000.